USPTO Customer No. 25280

Case# 5420

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A spun-bonded nonwoven fabric comprised of continuous multi-component fibers that are at least partially split along their length,

wherein the continuous multi-component fibers are comprised of about 65% polyethylene terephthalate and about 35% nylon 6,6;

wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric exhibits improved aesthetic and performance characteristics, and wherein the improved aesthetic and performance characteristics are selected from the group consisting of flexibility, drape, softness, thickness, moisture absorption capacity, moisture vapor transmission rate, cleanliness, dye uniformity and combinations thereof~~, and~~ ;

wherein the improved aesthetic and performance characteristics of flexibility and drape are determined by Bending Stiffness (B) when tested according to the Kawabata Pure Bending Tester (KES FB2), and wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric achieves a fabric weight-to-Bending Stiffness ratio of about 205 or greater~~, and~~ ;

wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric achieves improved dye uniformity; and

wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric is characterized by a plurality of broken fiber-to-fiber bonds.

Claims 2-6 (cancelled)

7. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the improved aesthetic and performance characteristics are softness and thickness, and wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric achieves an increased thickness of about 10 percent or greater when

tested using a Thwing-Albert VIR Electronic Thickness Tester according to ASTM D 1777-96.

8. (previously presented) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the improved aesthetic and performance characteristic is moisture absorption capacity, and wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric achieves an increased moisture absorption capacity of about 10 percent or greater when compared with an untreated spun-bonded nonwoven fabric.

9. (previously presented) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the improved aesthetic and performance characteristic is moisture vapor transmission rate, and wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric achieves an increased moisture vapor transmission rate of about 8 percent or greater when compared with an untreated spun-bonded nonwoven fabric.

10. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric has a fabric weight of about 160 g/m^2.

11. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 10, wherein the improved aesthetic and performance characteristics are softness and thickness, and wherein the thickness is about 24.0 mils or greater when tested using a Thwing-Albert VIR Electronic Thickness Tester according to ASTM D 1777-96.

12. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 10, wherein the improved aesthetic and performance characteristic is moisture absorption capacity, and wherein moisture absorption capacity is about 3.75 g/ml or greater.

13. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric has a fabric weight of about 100 g/m^2.

14. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 13, wherein the improved aesthetic and performance characteristic is moisture vapor transmission rate, and wherein the rate of moisture vapor transmission is about 675 g/m^2 or greater.

Claims 15 – 18 (cancelled)

19. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric is incorporated into an article of apparel.

20. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric is incorporated into an article of bedding.

21. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric is incorporated into an article of residential upholstery.

22. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric is incorporated into an article of commercial upholstery.

23. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric is incorporated into an article of automotive upholstery.

24. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric is incorporated into an article of napery.

25. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric is incorporated into an article of drapery.

26. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric is incorporated into an article for residential cleaning cloths.

27. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric is incorporated into an article for commercial cleaning cloths.

28. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric is incorporated into an article for cleanrooms applications.

29. (original) The spun-bonded nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the spun-bonded nonwoven fabric is incorporated into an article for allergy barrier applications.